DC
SECOND FEATURE
The QUESTION
BATWOMAN
DETECTIVE
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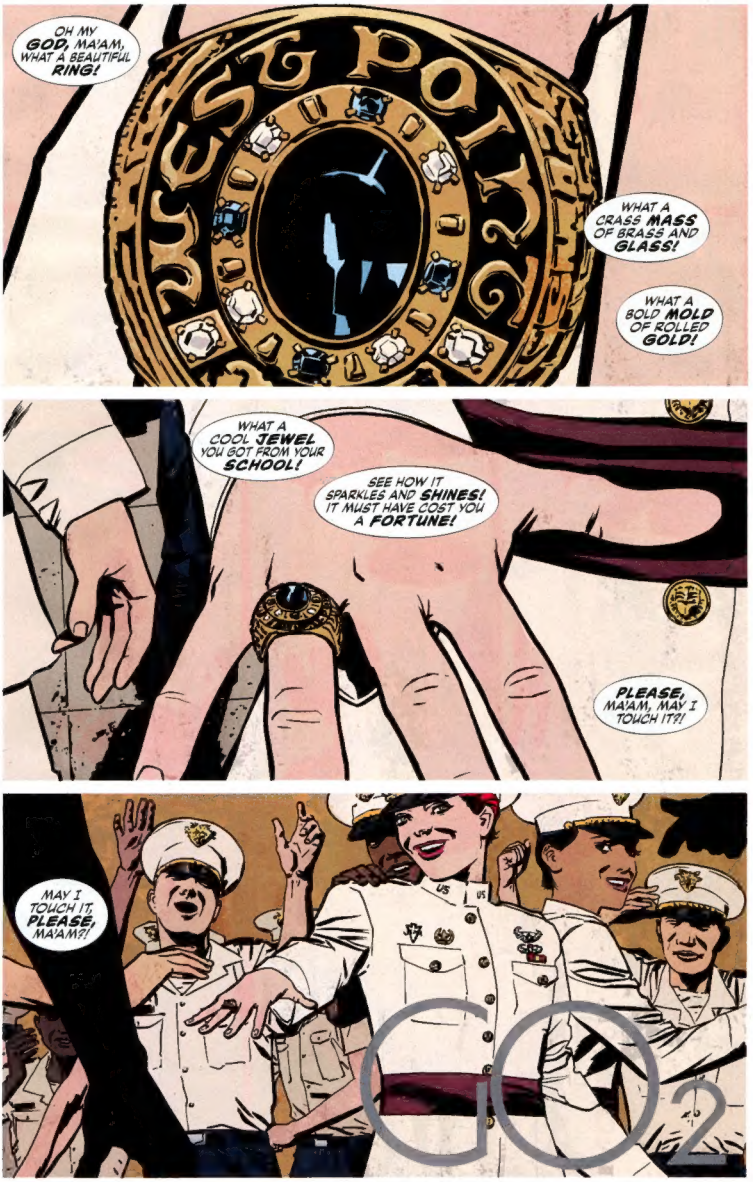
OH MY GOD, MA'AM, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL RING!
WEST POINT
WHAT A CRASS MASS OF BRASS AND GLASS!
WHAT A BOLD MOLD OF ROLLED GOLD!
WHAT A COOL JEWEL YOU GOT FROM YOUR SCHOOL!
SEE HOW IT SPARKLES AND SHINES! IT MUST HAVE COST YOU A FORTUNE!
PLEASE, MA'AM, MAY I TOUCH IT?!
MAY I TOUCH IT, PLEASE, MA'AM?!
GQ2

KATE?
KANE, K./B2

WHAT'RE YOU STILL DOING HERE? I THOUGHT YOU WERE LEAVING RIGHT AFTER THE BANQUET.
DECIDED I WANTED TO STAY ON POST.

CANDY, IT'S RING WEEKEND!
AT LEAST GET A PASS, TAKE YOUR NEW GLS OUT FOR A SPIN.
RIGHT, BECAUSE THAT'S SO WHAT I'D DO.
I'VE GOT BRIGADE WORK, ANYWAY.
YOUR DAD DIDN'T COME UP?

THE LTC'S NEW FIANCÉE HAD OTHER IDEAS.
HUAH.
HUAH.
KANE

BEING ALONE'S NO GOOD, CANDY.

IT'S OKAY, SOPHIE. I'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
DUTY, HONOR, AND COUNTRY, RIGHT?
TELL YOUR FOLKS I SAID HI.
KANE
VOOM!

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LETTERS

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ASST. EDITOR

MICHAEL SIGLAIN
EDITOR

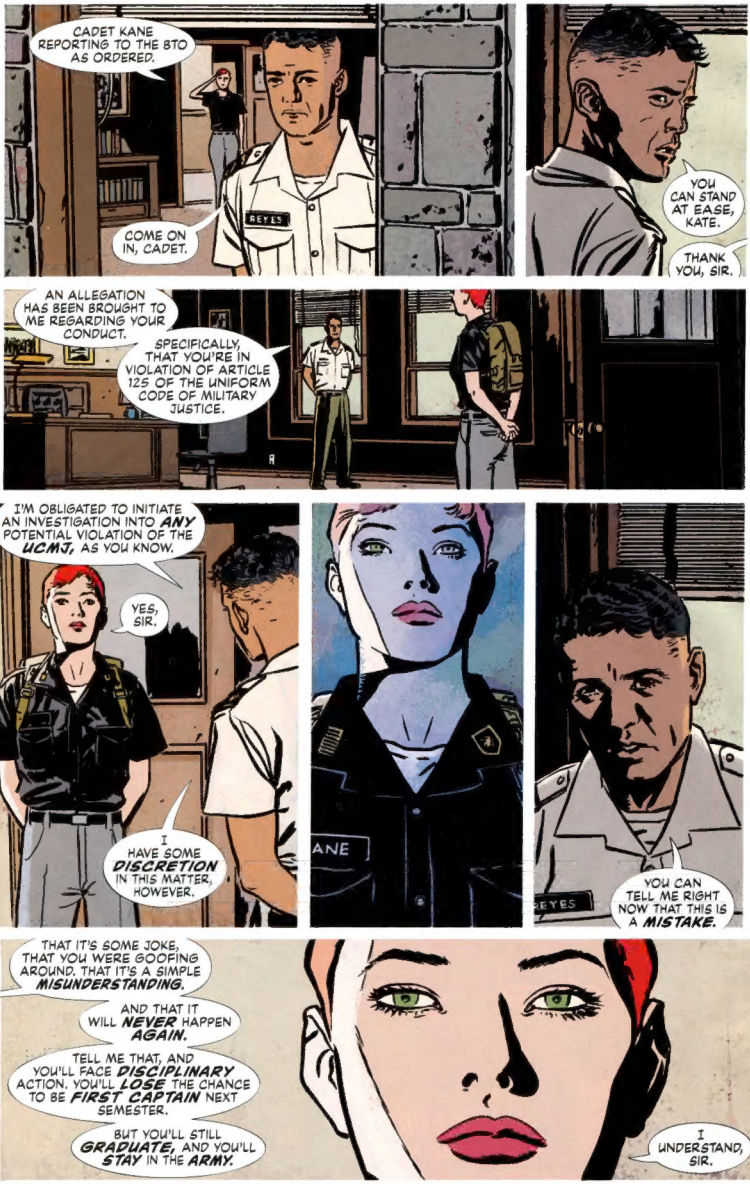
SPECIAL THANKS TO 1LT DANIEL CHOI (USMA 2003) FOR HIS GENEROUS ASSISTANCE IN RESEARCH FOR THIS ISSUE

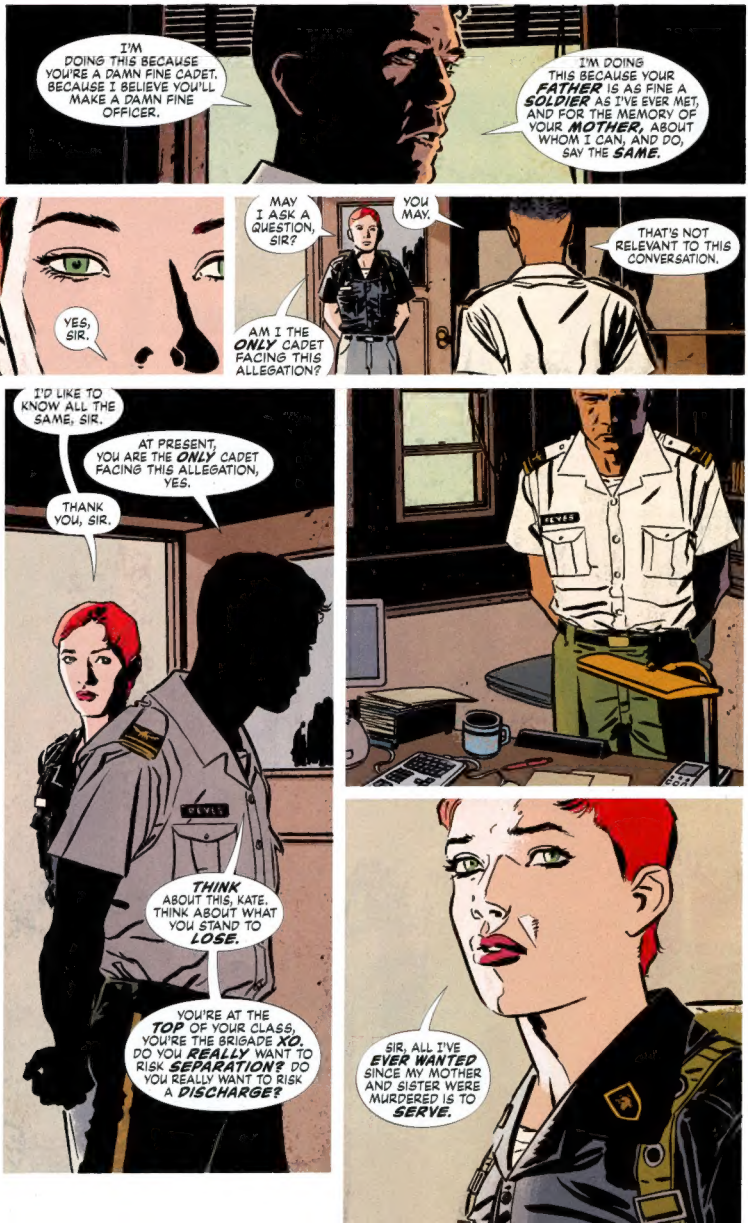
ALEX ROSS: VARIANT COVER

BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE

The Cadet Honor Code
A Cadet Will Not Lie, Cheat, Steal, Or Tolerate Those Who Do.
KNEW I'D FIND YOU HERE.
THOUGHT YOU WERE WITH YOUR PARENTS.
AND LEAVE YOU ALONE TO WALLOW IN SELF-PITY?
NO SUCH LUCK, CADET KANE.

FOR THE CORPS!
Brigade XO
CDT CPT Katherine "Candy" Kane
Brigade S-3
CDT CPT Sophie "Gimme" Moore
ATTENTION ALL CADETS!
THERE ARE FIVE MINUTES UNTIL BREAKFAST FORMATION...
...THEN THE THING WITH THE E-2 PLEBES, THEY REALLY NEED TO SHAPE UP--
...THE UNIFORM OF THE DAY IS: AS FOR CLASS...
KATE!
MORNING, DAN.
I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.
SOPHIE, CAN YOU GIVE US A MINUTE?
...THERE ARE FIVE MINUTES REMAINING...
SURE THING.
THE BTO WANTS TO SEE YOU.
I'LL DO IT AFTER BREAK--
NO, COLONEL REYES WANTS TO SEE YOU NOW, CANDY.
CHOI
I'M GONNA NEED YOU TO RECEIVE THE REPORT FOR ME. THERE'S THIS THING WITH E-2--
I GOT YOU COVERED. HUAH.
HUAH.
FOR THE CORPS!
ATTENTION ALL CADETS...

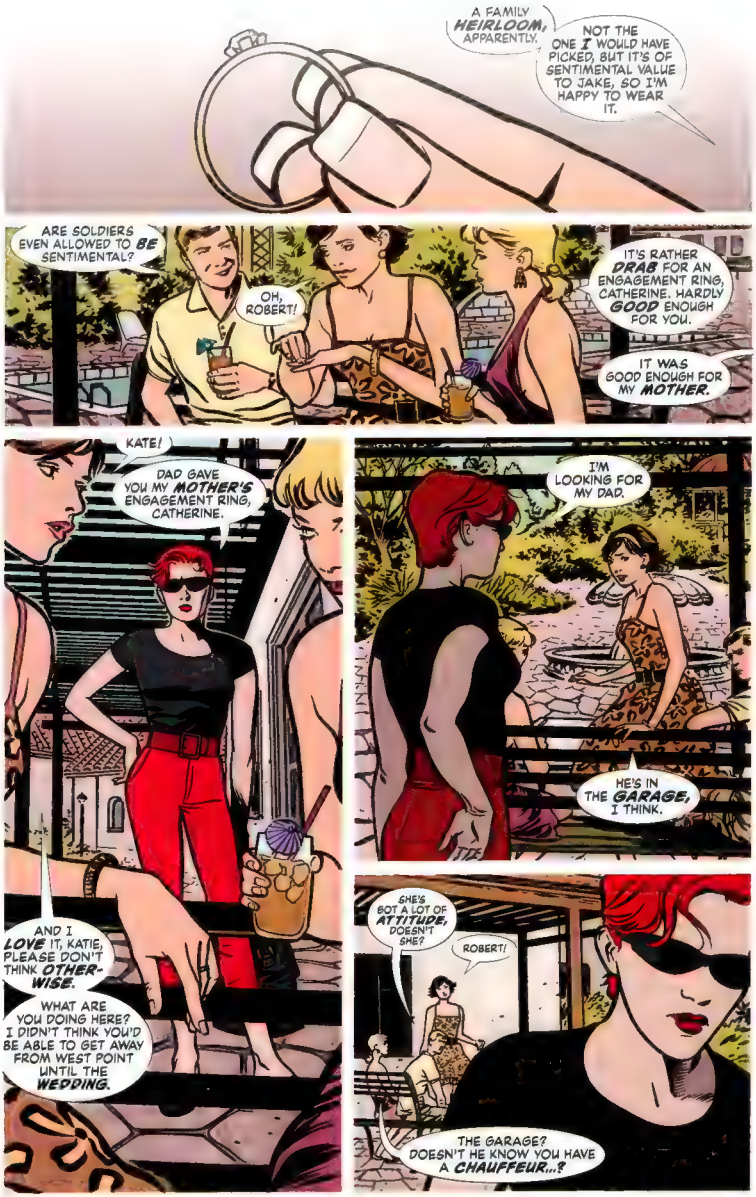

CADET KANE REPORTING TO THE BTO AS ORDERED.
REYES
COME ON IN, CADET.
YOU CAN STAND AT EASE, KATE.
THANK YOU, SIR.
AN ALLEGATION HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO ME REGARDING YOUR CONDUCT.
SPECIFICALLY, THAT YOU'RE IN VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 125 OF THE UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE.
I'M OBLIGATED TO INITIATE AN INVESTIGATION INTO ANY POTENTIAL VIOLATION OF THE UCMJ, AS YOU KNOW.
YES, SIR.
I HAVE SOME DISCRETION IN THIS MATTER, HOWEVER.
ANE
EYES
YOU CAN TELL ME RIGHT NOW THAT THIS IS A MISTAKE.
THAT IT'S SOME JOKE, THAT YOU WERE GOOFING AROUND, THAT IT'S A SIMPLE MISUNDERSTANDING.
AND THAT IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.
TELL ME THAT, AND YOU'LL FACE DISCIPLINARY ACTION. YOU'LL LOSE THE CHANCE TO BE FIRST CAPTAIN NEXT SEMESTER.
BUT YOU'LL STILL GRADUATE, AND YOU'LL STAY IN THE ARMY.
I UNDERSTAND, SIR.


I'M DOING THIS BECAUSE YOU'RE A DAMN FINE CADET. BECAUSE I BELIEVE YOU'LL MAKE A DAMN FINE OFFICER.
I'M DOING THIS BECAUSE YOUR FATHER IS AS FINE A SOLDIER AS I'VE EVER MET, AND FOR THE MEMORY OF YOUR MOTHER, ABOUT WHOM I CAN, AND DO, SAY THE SAME.
YES, SIR.
MAY I ASK A QUESTION, SIR?
YOU MAY.
AM I THE ONLY CADET FACING THIS ALLEGATION?
THAT'S NOT RELEVANT TO THIS CONVERSATION.
I'D LIKE TO KNOW ALL THE SAME, SIR.
AT PRESENT, YOU ARE THE ONLY CADET FACING THIS ALLEGATION, YES.
THANK YOU, SIR.
REYES
THINK ABOUT THIS, KATE. THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU STAND TO LOSE.
YOU'RE AT THE TOP OF YOUR CLASS, YOU'RE THE BRIGADE XO. DO YOU REALLY WANT TO RISK SEPARATION? DO YOU REALLY WANT TO RISK A DISCHARGE?
REYES
SIR, ALL I'VE EVER WANTED SINCE MY MOTHER AND SISTER WERE MURDERED IS TO SERVE.

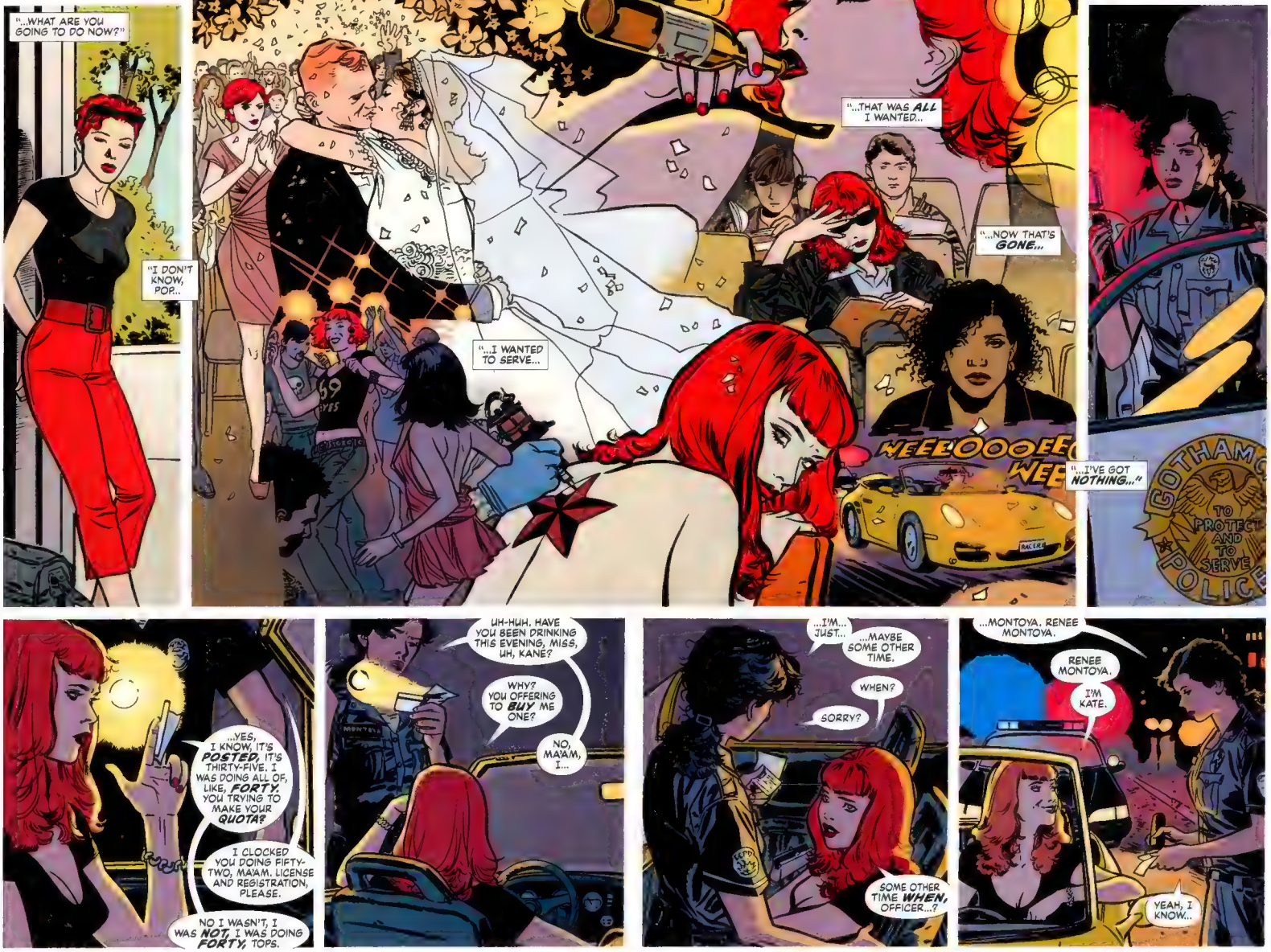
THEN IT SEEMS TO ME YOUR CHOICE IS CLEAR.
YOU KNOW WHAT I NEED YOU TO SAY.
A CADET SHALL NOT LIE, CHEAT OR STEAL, NOR SUFFER OTHERS TO DO SO.
I'M SORRY, SIR, I CAN'T.
I'M GAY.

MY STORY. LISTEN, BECAUSE IT IS YOURS, TOO.
THE PROPHECY IS TOLD IN THE BLASPHEMIES, IN THE BOOK OF LILITH.
THAT ON THE EIGHTEENTH DAY PAST THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS...
YOU'RE WOUNDED.
I NEED TO CONFIRM THEY'RE FROM MONOZYGOTIC TWINS.
WILL YOU DO IT?
DOCTOR MALLORY KIMBALL.
I NEED A FAVOR.
I NEED A DNA TEST RUN ON THESE SAMPLES.
...THE APOSTLE OF THE FIRST WOULD COME TO GOTHAM...
...AND THERE HE WOULD MURDER THE "TWICE-NAMED DAUGHTER OF CAIN."
SO MANY TIMES, THE HIGH MADAME POURED THESE WORDS IN MY EAR.
YOU'VE BEEN STABBED--
WILL YOU TEST THEM FOR ME?
I CAN HAVE RESULTS TOMORROW NIGHT.
I'LL BE BACK TOMORROW NIGHT.
TAKE OFF YOUR GAUNTLET...
...SO I CAN LOOK AT--
SO MANY TIMES, IT HAD TO BE THE TRUTH.
IT RRR HAD TO BE GRRR TRUTH.
IT RRR WASN'T.

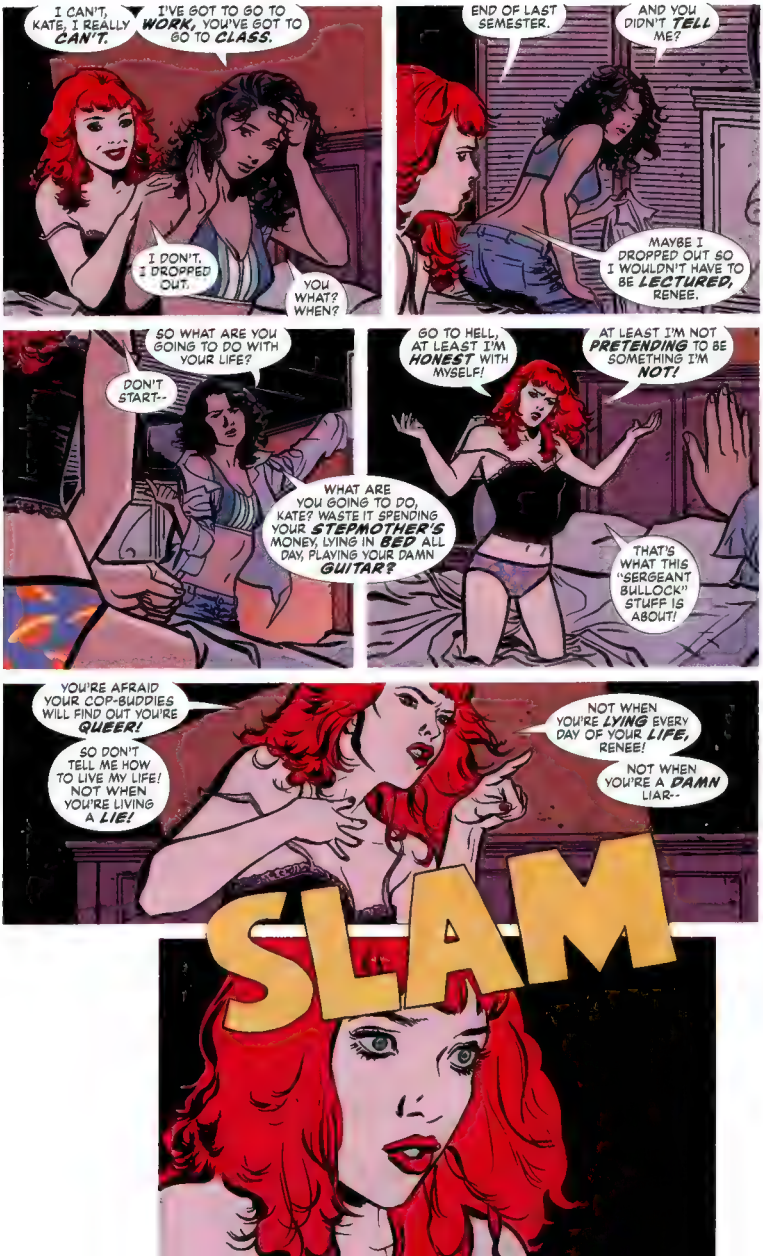
I, LIKE ALL OF YOU, GAVE MY BODY, MY SERVICE FOR THE PROMISE OF THE TRUTH TO BE FOUND IN THE DARK FAITH.
I FOLLOWED AS THE HIGH MADAME ORDERED, TRIED TO KILL THE TWICE-NAMED AND FULFILL THEIR PROPHECY.
I FAILED, OVER AND OVER. THAT WAS THE BEGINNING OF MY DOUBT.
WHEN THE KNIFE WAS AT LAST PLUNGED INTO THE TWICE-NAMED'S HEART, EVEN THEN, SHE WOULD NOT DIE.
NO, THE BATWOMAN SURVIVED. THE BATWOMAN LIVED.
THAT'S WHEN I KNEW THE TRUTH:
THAT SHE WHO WOULD NOT BE KILLED WAS MEANT TO LIVE.
FOR FOLLOWING THIS...CAIN HERESY, WE WERE HUNTED BY THE DARK FAITH.
BUT TONIGHT, THE ONE WE SOUGHT TO MURDER HAS FREED US.
TONIGHT, THE HIGH MADAME FELL FROM THE SKY TO HER DEATH...
...KILLED BY THE BATWOMAN.
AND WE THANK YOU.
THE TWICE-NAMED DAUGHTER OF KANE. TWINS.
YOU KNEW. ALL ALONG, YOU KNEW.
THE PROPHECY FULFILLED.
BASTARD.
KRAK!
LISTEN CAREFULLY.
I AM NOT PART OF YOU.
YOU WILL ALL STAY AWAY FROM ME, AND AWAY FROM MY FAMILY...
...OR I WILL KILL EVERY LAST ONE OF YOU.


A FAMILY HEIRLOOM, APPARENTLY.
NOT THE ONE I WOULD HAVE PICKED, BUT IT'S OF SENTIMENTAL VALUE TO JAKE, SO I'M HAPPY TO WEAR IT.
ARE SOLDIERS EVEN ALLOWED TO BE SENTIMENTAL?
OH, ROBERT!
IT'S RATHER DRAB FOR AN ENGAGEMENT RING, CATHERINE. HARDLY GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU.
IT WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR MY MOTHER.
KATE!
DAD GAVE YOU MY MOTHER'S ENGAGEMENT RING, CATHERINE.
AND I LOVE IT, KATIE, PLEASE DON'T THINK OTHERWISE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE ABLE TO GET AWAY FROM WEST POINT UNTIL THE WEDDING.
I'M LOOKING FOR MY DAD.
HE'S IN THE GARAGE, I THINK.
SHE'S GOT A LOT OF ATTITUDE, DOESN'T SHE?
ROBERT!
THE GARAGE? DOESN'T HE KNOW YOU HAVE A CHAUFFEUR...?

HEY, POP.
KATE? THIS IS A SURPRISE.
SHOULDN'T YOU BE ATTENDING CLASS? ARE YOU ON A PASS?
NO, SIR.
I'VE BEEN SEPARATED FROM THE ARMY.
WHAT? WHAT HAPPENED?
COLONEL REYES INFORMED ME I WAS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR VIOLATING ARTICLE 125.
I COULDN'T SAY WHAT HE NEEDED TO HEAR.
ARTICLE 125, THAT'S HOMOSEXUAL CONDUCT.
YES, SIR.
WHY COULDN'T YOU TELL HIM WHAT HE NEEDED TO HEAR?
I'D HAVE BEEN LYING.
THEN YOU KEPT YOUR HONOR AND YOUR INTEGRITY. I'M PROUD OF YOU.
YOUR MOTHER WOULD'VE BEEN, TOO.
BUT I'VE GOT TO ASK YOU, KATE...


"...WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?"
"I DON'T KNOW, POP...
"...I WANTED TO SERVE...
"...THAT WAS ALL I WANTED...
"...NOW THAT'S GONE...
WEEEOOOEE
WEE
"...I'VE GOT NOTHING..."
GOTHAM
TO PROTECT AND TO SERVE
POLICE
...YES, I KNOW, IT'S POSTED, IT'S THIRTY-FIVE. I WAS DOING ALL OF, LIKE, FORTY. YOU TRYING TO MAKE YOUR QUOTA?
I CLOCKED YOU DOING FIFTY-TWO, MA'AM. LICENSE AND REGISTRATION, PLEASE.
NO I WASN'T, I WAS NOT, I WAS DOING FORTY, TOPS.
UH-HUH. HAVE YOU BEEN DRINKING THIS EVENING, MISS, UH, KANE?
WHY? YOU OFFERING TO BUY ME ONE?
NO, MA'AM, I...
...I'M... JUST...
...MAYBE SOME OTHER TIME.
WHEN?
SORRY?
SOME OTHER TIME WHEN, OFFICER...?
...MONTOYA. RENEE MONTOYA.
RENEE MONTOYA.
I'M KATE.
YEAH, I KNOW...

"...IT'S ON YOUR LICENSE."
RENEE?
KATE?
I'VE GOT AN IDEA.
IF IT'S ANYTHING LIKE THE IDEA YOU HAD LAST NIGHT, I'M ALL EARS.
DON'T GO TO WORK TODAY.
I HAVE TO GO TO WORK TODAY, BABY.
NO, YOU DON'T. YOU TAKE A SICK DAY..
...AND YOU COME BACK TO BED AND THEN TONIGHT WE CAN GO TO XENON FOR DINNER.
THEN AFTER THAT WE CAN GO DANCING AND THEN AFTER THAT WE CAN COME BACK HERE AND DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN.
I TAKE ANOTHER SICK DAY, SERGEANT BULLOCK'LL KILL ME.
HE'LL UNDERSTAND. I'M SURE HE KNOWS WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE IN LOVE.
CLEARLY YOU'VE NEVER MET SERGEANT BULLOCK, BABY.


I CAN'T, KATE, I REALLY CAN'T.
I'VE GOT TO GO TO WORK, YOU'VE GOT TO GO TO CLASS.
I DON'T. I DROPPED OUT.
YOU WHAT? WHEN?
END OF LAST SEMESTER.
AND YOU DIDN'T TELL ME?
MAYBE I DROPPED OUT SO I WOULDN'T HAVE TO BE LECTURED, RENEE.
SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH YOUR LIFE?
DON'T START--
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, KATE? WASTE IT SPENDING YOUR STEPMOTHER'S MONEY, LYING IN BED ALL DAY, PLAYING YOUR DAMN GUITAR?
GO TO HELL, AT LEAST I'M HONEST WITH MYSELF!
AT LEAST I'M NOT PRETENDING TO BE SOMETHING I'M NOT!
THAT'S WHAT THIS "SERGEANT BULLOCK" STUFF IS ABOUT!
YOU'RE AFRAID YOUR COP-BUDDIES WILL FIND OUT YOU'RE QUEER!
SO DON'T TELL ME HOW TO LIVE MY LIFE! NOT WHEN YOU'RE LIVING A LIE!
NOT WHEN YOU'RE LYING EVERY DAY OF YOUR LIFE, RENEE!
NOT WHEN YOU'RE A DAMN LIAR--
SLAM

Molly's BAR
RENEE, IT'S...IT'S KATE, RENEE...
...I'M--I'M SO SORRY ABOUT WHAT I SAID, BABY, I DIDN'T MEAN IT, I JUST... I WAS TRYING TO HURT YOU...
...YOU'RE RIGHT...
...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, I HAD A PLAN ONCE, AND NOW...
...AND NOW I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, WHAT TO BE...
...PLEASE, RENEE, JUST CALL ME.
WALLET AND PHONE--
NAAAA!!
UNFH!!
THINK
I'M SOME VICTIM
AAAAHH!!
KRAK
YOU DON'T KNOW
I'M A SOLDIER
I'M A GODDAMN--

TO BE CONTINUED...

"WE BEGIN WITH GHC EXPORTS, THE SHIPPING COMPANY BASED OUT OF LOS ANGELES. THE *START* OF THE PIPELINE.
"TO MOVE THE WOMEN THEY'RE TRAFFICKING, GHC CONTRACTS THE USE OF A CONTAINER SHIP, THE *INDIGO STAR*...
"...REGISTERED OUT OF *TRIESTE*, ITALY
"THE INDIGO STAR, IN TURN, IS OWNED BY LAVAAND INDUSTRIES...
"...BASED IN THE *NETHERLANDS*.
"LAVAAND OWNS A *FLEET* OF SHIPS AS WELL AS EXTENSIVE *STORAGE* FACILITIES...
"...THE LARGE MAJORITY OF THEM IN *NORTH AFRICA*...

The Question: PIPELINE

CHAPTER TWO|PART ONE

WRITER GREG RUCKA • ARTIST CULLY HAMNER
COLORIST DAVE MCCAIG • LETTERER JARED K. FLETCHER
ASST. EDITOR HARVEY RICHARDS • EDITOR MICHAEL SIGLAIN

OUTER BANKS, NORTH CAROLINA.
...INCLUDING HOLDINGS IN MOROCCO, ALGERIA, AND TUNISIA.
ALL OF THEM ON THE MED.
CORRECT. AS TRANSIT POINTS THEY'D BE PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE, RENEE. .
"...GOVERNMENTAL REGULATION IN THE REGION IS EASILY SWAYED BY THE GREASING OF PALMS.
"ONE COULD STORE VAST QUANTITIES OF MATERIEL WITHOUT WORRY IT WOULD EVER BE DISCOVERED."
BETTER THAN THAT, TOT. IT'S A CROSSROADS BETWEEN AFRICA AND EUROPE.
INDEED. AND THEN THE WORLD.
SO WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A GLOBAL OPERATION.
"...NOT JUST HUMAN TRAFFICKING, BUT TRAFFICKING PERIOD.
"DRUGS, GUNS, GOODS, YOU NAME IT. THEY CAN SUPPLY IT."
AVARICE. THE SPUR OF INDUSTRY.

SENECA?
DAVID HUME, "POVERTY WANTS SOME, LUXURY WANTS MANY, AND AVARICE ALL THINGS." THAT WOULD BE SENECA.
AH...
DAMN
"...YOU REALIZE WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH, DON'T YOU?"
ORGANIZED CRIME.
ORGANIZED CRIME
MIGHT NEED A LITTLE BACKUP ON THIS ONE.

TUNISIA
YOU GUYS DON'T *REALLY* WANT TO *SHOOT* ME, DO YOU?
YOU MIGHT HIT THE *CARS*, AFTER ALL, AND *THAT* WOULD REALLY BE A *CRIME*.
ESPECIALLY IF YOU DAMAGED THE VEYRON
THE WOMAN WITHOUT A *FACE*...
...WE WERE *WARNED* YOU MIGHT COME HERE.
YOU'VE BEEN CAUSING THE NETWORK QUITE A LOT OF *PAIN* LATELY.
OH, GOOD.
I WAS AFRAID NO ONE HAD *NOTICED*.
REST ASSURED, WE'VE NOTICED.
NOW WE'RE GOING TO *KILL* YOU.
WELL, IF I'M GONNA *DIE*, YOU MIND ANSWERING SOME *QUESTIONS* FIRST?
MAYBE ABOUT THIS *"NETWORK"* YOU JUST MENTIONED?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO *DIE*, WHAT DO THE ANSWERS *MATTER*?

KILL H--
GAHHH!
ARRNH!
TWO DOWN...
...SIX TO GO.
THERE'S ANOTHER ONE!
FIND THEM!
KILL THEM!

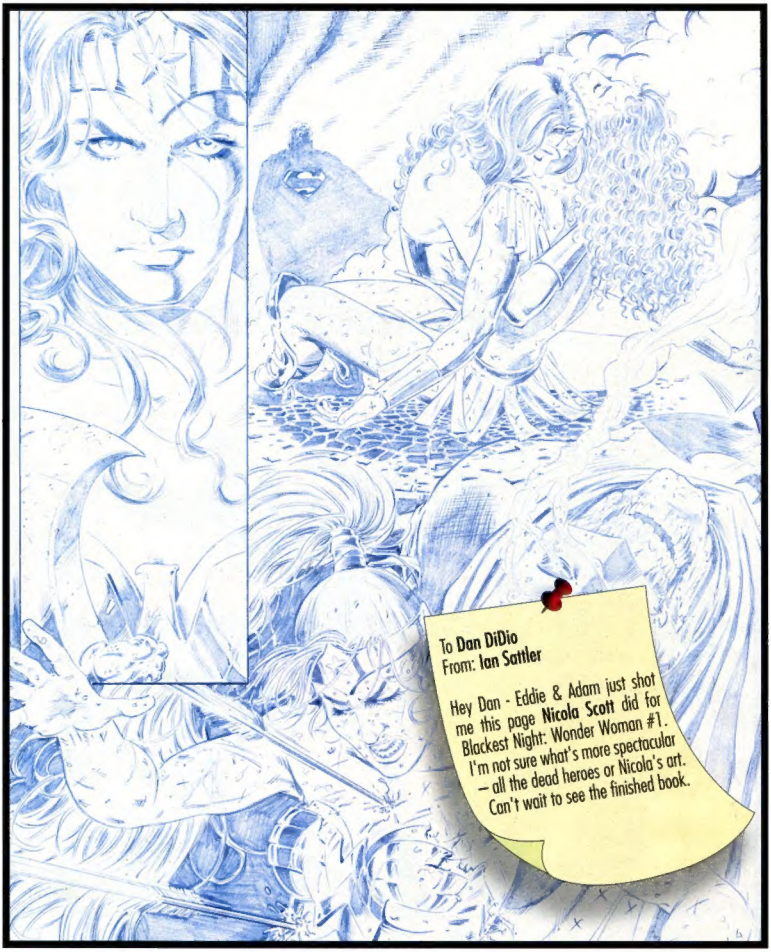
THAT WASN'T FAIR--
--YOU GOT TWO AT ONCE.
WHAT CAN I SAY?
I'M JUST THAT GOOD.
--HEY! THAT ONE WAS MINE!
SLOWPOKE

HOW MANY IS THAT?
TWO TO THREE. YOU'RE *LEADING*. NO, WAIT--
KH
--THAT'S THREE *ALL*.

THERE, I SEE HER--
SPAK SPAK SPAK SPAK SPAK
BLAM BLAM BLAM
SPAK SPAK SPAK
WANNA CALL IT A DRAW?
BLAM BLAM BLAM
SPAK SPAK SPAK SPAK
BLAM BLAM
ARE YOU HIGH? THERE'S THREE LEFT--
AIEEEE!
--I'VE GOT THIS IN THE BAG.

YOU CAN HAVE *THIS* ONE.
I ALREADY *WON.*
GRACIOUS IN *VICTORY,* AS ALWAYS.
WHATEVER.
SO...
...YOU WERE GOING TO TELL ME ABOUT THE *NETWORK...*

GIBRALTAR.
YOU CONFIRMED PAYMENT?
INDEED. VERY PROMPT.
I EXPECT THE SAME FROM YOU.
WHAT WAS AN ANNOYANCE IS NOW A PROBLEM...
...ONE I WANT RESOLVED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
DETAILS TRANSFERRING NOW. THEY WERE LAST SEEN AT THE TUNISIA WAYSTATION. I SUGGEST YOU START THERE.
THEY'RE BOTH MASKS?
CORRECT. IS THAT A PROBLEM?
NOT AT ALL...
...JUST MAKES IT MORE FUN...
TO BE CONTINUED!


To Dan DiDio
From: Ian Sattler
Hey Dan - Eddie & Adam just shot me this page Nicola Scott did for Blackest Night: Wonder Woman #1. I'm not sure what's more spectacular – all the dead heroes or Nicola's art. Can't wait to see the finished book.

DC NATION

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